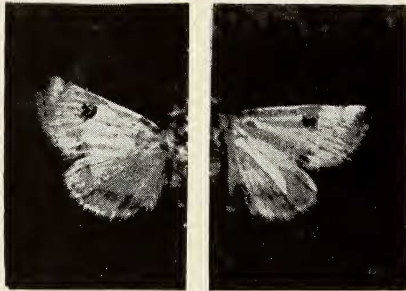


**SCHINIA MACROPTICA SMITH, A SYNONYM
(LEPIDOPTERA, PHALAENIDAE).**

By ROWLAND R. McELVARE, Southern Pines, N. C.

John B. Smith (1900) described *Schinia oculata* from a defective male and one good female. The species is characterized by a "broad median space silvery white, without band, but with a large kidney-shaped reniform, which is ocherous and emphasized with black scales." Later (1906), he described *Schinia macroptica* from a unique female. "The very large discal spot of the primaries, shaded with golden brown in the silvery white median space, marks this species at once. From *oculata* to which the new form is allied, it differs by the much broader basal and outer luteous areas, as well as by the much larger and differently shaped reniform." All three type specimens are from the Sonoran desert, and the male of *oculata* resembles the female *macroptica* to a marked degree.

Fig. 1. *Schinia oculata* Sm., ♀ type, U.S.N.M. (Photo 2×).Fig. 2. *Schinia macroptica* Sm., ♀ type, John B. Smith Collection (Photo 2×).

Study of a series of forty specimens from the Sonoran and Colorado deserts indicates that Smith's types represent extremes of

one variable species. The female of *oculata* has faint markings and a semicircular reniform. Other specimens with faint markings show a reniform completed outwardly to form the oval attributed to *macroptica*. The type of *macroptica* is characterized by bold markings and an oval reniform. Other boldly marked specimens show a reniform varying from oval to semicircular. There appears no point at which a line of demarcation can be drawn between the two species. Examination of the armature of the foretibiae and the male genitalia confirms this.

Accordingly *Schinia macroptica* Sm. is a synonym of *Schinia oculata* Sm.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Photograph of type of *Schinia macroptica* Sm. by Lyle Hagmann, Rutgers University.

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COLEOPTERA AND DIPTERA REARED FROM OWL NESTS¹

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Nest material from the nest of a burrowing owl, *Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea* (Bonaparte), was collected and examined on May 13, 1953, one mile west of Loma Linda, San Bernardino County, California. The nest site was apparently that of an abandoned rodent (possibly ground squirrel) burrow; the nest itself was located about two feet from the burrow entrance.

Diptera and Coleoptera larvae and pupae were segregated from the debris and reared in cloth covered jars containing sand. The

¹ Contribution from the Department of Entomology, School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine.